



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Western District of New York

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# PRESS RELEASE

January 16, 2004

**RE: UNITED STATES v. TEJBIR OBEROI**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Dr. Tejbir Oberoi, age 57, a resident of Amherst, New York, pled guilty yesterday in federal court, before the Hon. Richard J. Arcara, to one count of mail fraud, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1341, and one count of making a false statement relating to a health care benefit, in violation Title 18 United States Code, Section 1035, each of which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00, or both. As a result, Oberoi is facing a maximum possible sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorneys John E. Rogowski and Anthony M. Bruce, who handled the prosecution of the case against the defendant, who had his office in downtown Buffalo at 74 Niagara Street, admitted that from at least 1994 through December 1999, as part of his scheme to defraud, he submitted numerous fraudulent claims to dental benefit plans insuring his patients in which he falsely claimed to have completed dental work which was not performed. The defendant conceded that he maintained falsified patient files which falsely reflected that the non-rendered services had been performed. The defendant

further admitted that the scheme resulted in the insurance companies being improperly billed for approximately \$252,000 in dental services that were not provided to patients.

Specifically, the defendant admitted that in December 1995, he submitted a claim form to CIGNA Insurance Company on which he stated that he had performed osseous surgery on all four quadrants of a patient's mouth. In fact, the defendant had not performed the work. The defendant acknowledged that he received \$2,960 from the insurance company for the non-rendered services. The defendant also admitted that in August 1998, he submitted a claim form to Aetna Insurance Company on which he claimed that in December of 1996 he had performed root canals in four teeth of another patient, work which was never performed. In fact, the defendant had never performed a root canal procedure in that patient's mouth at any time.

The Indictment in this case had been pending since December 1999, and the plea took place after the fourth day of a jury trial that was expected to last four weeks. As part of the plea agreement, the government reserved the right to ask the Court to impose the maximum sentence of 10 years based, in part, on a claim that the defendant, in course of his criminal scheme, performed unnecessary dental work on patients.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation conducted by the Western New York Health Care Fraud Task Force consisting of agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division, United States Department of Health and Human Services, United States Postal Inspection Service,

United States Department of Defense - Criminal Investigation Service, the New York State Police - Special Investigations Unit and the New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau.

The sentencing in this case is scheduled for May 3, 2004, before Judge Arcara.

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